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No. 1 Pirates Advance To NCAA Southeast Region Final With 3-1 Win Over North Georgia

NORTH GEORGIA

ARMSTRONG

1	Final	1	2	T	3
	NORTH GEORGIA (15-5-2)	1	0	1	
	ARMSTRONG (19-1-1)	0	3	3	





Posted: Nov 11, 2012

SAVANNAH, Ga. - The top-ranked Armstrong Atlantic State University women's soccer squad scored three second-half goals to race past North Georgia, 3-1, on Saturday afternoon to advance to the NCAA DII Women's Soccer Championships Southeast Region final for a second consecutive season.

The Pirates (19-1-1) also won their 19th consecutive match, extending its own school record while snapping the Peach Belt Conference record of 18 straight matches, set by Kennesaw State in 2002. North Georgia sees its season come to a close with a 15-5-2 record - with three of the Saints' losses coming to the Pirates.

North Georgia scored the first goal of the match in the 16th minute as a pass by Abby Trevino into the box took a high bounce and Kelly Penston ran onto the ball, volleying it into the net for her 12th goal of the season and the early 1-0 lead.

The Pirates could not find the back of the net before intermission, despite holding a 9-4 edge in shots at the break.

SCORING SUMMARY

1st - 15:40 - Kelly Penston (North Georgia)
2nd - 51:24 - Morgan Mitchell (Armstrong)
2nd - 78:30 - Morgan Mitchell (Armstrong)
2nd - 83:24 - TEAM (Armstrong)

GAME LEADERS

NORTH GEORGIA

G: Kelly Penston - 1

A: Abby Trevino - 1

Sh: Sydney Reeder - 3

Sv: Mallory Sayre - 9

ARMSTRONG

G: Morgan Mitchell - 2

In the second half, Armstrong drew even on a set piece as PBC Player of the Year **Morgan Mitchell** headed in a corner kick from **Emily Cattanach** in the 52nd minute, making the score 1-1.

Mitchell then tallied the go-ahead goal in the 79th minute as an initial hard-angle shot by **Andye Dawson** from the left side ticked off the fingertips of North Georgia keeper Mallory Sayre and rolled across the face of goal, finding Mitchell for the easy finish.

Armstrong was then the beneficiary of a little good fortune in the 84th minute as a cross by **Kristina Pascutti** was played by North Georgia's Megan Morrow into her own goal, creating the insurance goal that the Pirates needed to secure the win.

"We came out a little bit sluggish against a very aggressive North Georgia team today, and they made us pay with the early goal," Armstrong head coach Eric Faulconer said. "I thought we did a good job weathering the storm in the first half and as we moved into the break, we gained a little more momentum.

"We had been in this situation before and I told the team at halftime that we had to match their intensity and show more quality in the final third. Mitchell's first goal gave us a ton of momentum and we rode that wave throughout the rest of the second half to get the victory."

Armstrong finished the match with a 19-12 edge in shots and enjoyed a slight 5-4 edge in corner kicks. Sayre made nine saves in net for the Saints, while **Morgan Luckie** made a pair of saves in net for the Pirates.

North Georgia was whistled for 14 fouls in the match, compared to nine for the Pirates, and Armstrong was offsides three times on the day to one for the Saints.

The Pirates will now face Columbus State, 2-1 winners over Belmont Abbey, in the NCAA Southeast Regional final to be played on Friday, November 16th, in Pensacola, Fla., at a time to be determined. It will be the third time this season and second in 1 days that the Pirates and the Cougars will match up as Armstrong downed Columbus State, 2-0, in the PBC Tournament Final a week ago.



A: Emily Cattanach - 1
Sh: Nadima Skeff - 7
Sv: Morgan Luckie - 2

TEAM STATS		
NORTH GEORGIA		ARMSTRONG
12 (3)	Shots (on goal)	19 (12)
9	Saves	2
14	Fouls	9
4	Corner Kicks	5
1	Offsides	3

FULL STATS		
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ARMSTRONG STATE UNIVERSITY

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